

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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USIA-15 L-03 DOTE-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /096 W

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R 290826Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0775

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 0567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, JA, CH, TW

SUBJECT: PREMIER CHIANG REITERATES FIRM ROC STAND ON ROC/JAPAN CIVIL
AIR ARRANGEMENTS

REF: A) TOKYO 1151; B) STATE 17780

MANILA FOR ASST SEC INGERSOLL

1. SUMMARY: IN JAN 28 CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
INGERSOLL PREMIER CHIANG EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE ROC WAS PRE-
PARED TO COMPROMISE ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF CIVIL AIR ARRANGE-
MENTS WITH JAPAN, IT WOULD NOT CONCEDE ON TWO REMAINING SUB-
STANTIVE ISSUES WHICH AFFECTED ITS NATIONAL DIGNITY. ASSISTANT
SECRETARY NOTED JAPANESE DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH PRC AND
ACKNOWLEDGED PRC'S DESIRE TO USE ISSUE AS WAY OF SPLITTING
LDP, BUT HE REFRAINED FROM ANY JUDGEMENTS ABOUT EITHER
JAPANESE OR ROC POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S JAN 28 CALL,
PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO ASKED ABOUT JAPANESE ATTITUDE
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ON CIVIL AIR ISSUE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAID FRONMIN OHIRA

APPEARED QUITE CONFIDENT THAT GOJ WOULD BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WITH PRC, REFLECTING A MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW THAN LAST FALL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED CCK'S POINT THAT PRC WAS TRYING TO SPLIT THE LDP OVER THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT BOTH PRIMIN TANAKA AND OHIRA WERE TRYING TO PREVENT THIS. BOTH MEN WANTED A CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WITH THE PRC AS PART OF THEIR EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BUT AT THE SAME TIME WISHED TO PRESERVE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN.

3. CCK COMMENTED EMPHATICALLY THAT GOJ WAS QUITE WRONG IN ITS UNDERSTANDING OF GRC POSITION, APPARENTLY FAILING TO APPRECIATE FULLY THE GRC'S THREAT TO ACCEPT LOSS OF JAPAN ROUTE. GRC COULD MAKE ADJUSTMENTS ON TECHNICAL ISSUES BUT NOT ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. IF THESE COULD NOT BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, CAL WOULD CONTINUE FLYING UNTIL TOLD BY THE JAPANESE TO STOP AT WHICH POINT GRC WOULD TELL JAL TO DISCONTINUE SERVICE. TWO STICKING POINTS WERE JAPANESE DESIRE TO REFER TO CAL AS "CAL (TAIWAN)" AND THEIR ATTEMPT TO PREVENT CAL FROM OPERATING OFFICES AND TICKET COUNTERS IN ITS OWN NAME AND WITH OWN PERSONNEL IN JAPAN. NO COMPROMISE WAS POSSIBLE ON THESE ISSUES SINCE THEY INVOLVED ROC'S NATIONAL DIGNITY. CONCESSIONS WOULD PLAY RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF THE PRC.

4. WITHOUT NAMING OHIRA, PREMIER ADDED THAT NUMBER OF JAPANESE POLITICIANS WERE TRYING TO USE A JAPAN/PRC CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT AS A DEVICE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR OWN POLITICAL POSITION. HE MADE CLEAR THAT THE ROC WAS NOT GOING TO FACILITATE THIS PROCESS, AND ASSERTED IN THE LONG RUN SUCH JAPANESE POLITICIANS WOULD SUFFER LOSS RATHER THAN GAIN.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE CCK'S UNQUALIFIEDLY NEGATIVE REMARKS ABOUT THE JAPANESE, HE DID NOT INDICATE THAT GRC HAS REACHED END OF LINE IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOJ. ALTHOUGH HE EXPRESSED SOME SEPTICISM, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE JAPANESE, ON BEING INFORMED OF THE GRC POSITION, AND RESPONDED THEY WOULD FIND SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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WAY OF WORKING OUT THE DIFFICULTIES.

6. EVEN THOUGH CCK SEEMED TO BE INVITING HIM TO DO SO, ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM PASSING ANY JUDGMENTS ON RESPECTIVE MERITS OF GOJ AND GRC POSITIONS. HE MADE NO MENTION OF OKAWARA'S PITCH TO CHARGE SHOESMITH (REF A), AND HE DID NOT SUGGEST OR EVEN IMPLY ANY US WILLINGNESS TO STATE GRC'S POSITION

TO GOJ.
MCCONAUGHY

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NNN

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